5,531,980; U.S. Patent No. 5,547,656; U.S. Patent No. 5,558,094; U.S. Patent No. 5,573,751; U.S. Patent No. 5,585,112; U.S. Patent No. 5,620,689; U.S. Patent No. 5,715,824; U.S. Patent No. 5,769,080; EP 0 122 624; EP 0 727 225; WO 96/40285; and WO 99/65467. The microbubbles provided by these contrast agents act as sound wave reflectors due to the acoustic differences between the gas microbubble and surrounding liquid.

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Amendments to the Claims:

46. (Amended) A method of ultrasound imaging in a patient in need of such ultrasound imaging comprising:

administering to the patient an effective amount of a formulation of claim 1;

A2

allowing a sufficient period of time for the circulation of the gas microsphere composite to reach the targeted area; and

performing ultrasound imaging on the patient.

51. (Amended) A method of treating heart disease, inflammation, infection, cancer or thromboembolic disease in a patient in need of such treatment comprising:

A3

administering to the patient an effective amount of a formulation of claim 1, wherein one or more of the liquid-filled liposomes independently comprises a therapeutic agent;

allowing a sufficient period of time for the circulation of the gas microsphere composite to the targeted area; and

applying ultrasound energy to the region of pathology in the patient sufficient to cause the therapeutic agent to be released from the microsphere liposome composite at the region of pathology.

55. (Amended) A method for preparing a formulation of claim 1 comprising:

contacting a suspension of liposomes in a aqueous solution comprising at least one lipid or one surfactant; and

mixing the suspension with a gas that has a solubility of less than about 1.0% (v/v) in water at 25°C and 1 atm sufficient to provide the formulation.

59. (Amended) A method for preparing a formulation ofclaim 1 comprising:

contacting a suspension of liposomes in a aqueous solution comprising at least one therapeutic agent and at least one surfactant; and

mixing the aqueous liposome suspension with a gas that has a solubility of less than about 1.0% (v/v) in water at 25°C and 1 atm sufficient to provide the formulation.

63. (Amended) A kit for the preparation of a formulation of claim 1 comprising: